

NEC ACTION REPORT

National Economic Council, Inc., 7501 Empire State Bldg., New York 1, N. Y.

No. 4

N. Y. SCHOOL BOARD YIELDS ON AMERICAN RUSSIAN INSTITUTE

"Alertness Credits" Cancelled Following NEC Protest

In the late days of the old year, after vigorous protests by NEC and other organizations, the New York City Board of Education reversed a previous stand and cancelled giving of "alertness credits" to teachers who attended the propaganda lectures of the "American Russian Institute."

The action followed by less than a month a defense of the Institute by Supt. of Schools William Jansen, who wrote NEC that "the lectures thus far given have proven entirely above criticism in every way." He admitted, however, "that there was always a danger that the lectures might have some element of propaganda" but contended that the course was set up "after considerable investigation."

Just how deep the Board's "investigation" could have gone was a mystery to those familiar with the Communist front network system in the U. S. Had the "investigators" visited the building owned by the Institute on swank Park Avenue, they would have found the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, known as a Communist front, comfortably installed there, too. They would also have found the Institute's "Inter-Church Committee"—now a separate organization—devoted to selling American churches on the tender love and solicitude of the Soviets for all forms of Christianity.

Had the "investigators" studied the names of those publicly associated with the Institute they might have been surprised to find unsuspected contacts with other "spontaneous" pro-Soviet movements. Had they examined the litera-

ture offered for sale openly, they might have drawn back.

Communist Teacher Reinstated

On Jan. 8, NEC sent a hot wire of objection to Lewis A. Wilson, Acting Commissioner of the New York State Dept. of Education for his surprise ruling reinstating an alleged Communist ex-school teacher—one Francis J. Thompson—in City College of New York with back pay because "the Communist Party had not been made illegal."

Greatly perturbed was Ordway Tead, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, who declared that he would seek "an immediate reargument" and threatened if necessary "to bring it to the courts." NEC wired:

"NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL STRONGLY PROTESTS AND URGES RECONSIDERATION YOUR ASTOUNDING DECISION. . . . THE WELFARE OF OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS SHOULD BE THE FIRST CONSIDERATION OF YOUR DEPARTMENT. . . . COMMUNISM IS A CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY DESIGNED TO DESTROY AMERICA'S WAY OF LIFE AND OUR EXISTENCE AS AN INDEPENDENT, FREE NATION. THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS NOT AS YET BEEN OUTLAWED IN THIS COUNTRY IS IRRELEVANT. WE SUBMIT IT IS YOUR DUTY TO JUDGE THIS MAN'S FITNESS AS REVEALED BY HIS COMMUNIST MEMBERSHIP, AS YOU HAVE EVERY STATUTORY RIGHT AND MORAL OBLIGATION TO DO, NOT TO FORCE HIM BACK UPON OUR CHILDREN."

FREE SPEECH IN BROOKLYN

President Merwin K. Hart of NEC in November last accepted an invitation to speak before the Women's Republican Club of Brooklyn, N. Y., at 2:30 p.m., January 9. At 10 a.m., Jan. 9, he was notified by phone that Chairman John R. Crews of the Kings County Republican Committee had directed that the invitation be cancelled on the ground that Mr. Hart was "Anti-Semitic."

Mr. Hart refused to recognize so frivolous an assertion and presented himself at the Republican Club at the appointed hour. The President, Mrs. Isabelle Kappeyne, abruptly adjourned the meeting at the end of ten minutes, telling of the order from the county chairman, expressing her regret, but saying that she was a good soldier and obeyed orders.

The surprised crowd, which filled the hall, failed to leave its seats. Presently one of the women present rose and introduced the speaker, the president of the club having already left the rostrum. Mr. Hart then delivered his address.

Before speaking on his announced subject, "Foreign Policy and the Republican Party," Mr. Hart said: "The order of the County Chairman that my address be cancelled was obviously prompted by a minority that talks volubly about free speech but is quite willing to suppress free speech on the part of anybody with whom it does not agree."

"This kind of knuckling down to this minority is one of the things that defeated the Republican Party in 1940 and 1944. It will defeat the party in 1948 if the party is not able and willing to shake itself free of this intimidating influence."

The members of the club listened to the speaker with intense attention, and at the end he was given prolonged applause.

NEC PROTESTS "LABOR DIVISION" IN GREEK AID

On Jan. 8, NEC forwarded a strongly worded protest to Sec'y. of State Geo. C. Marshall against continuation of a "Labor Division" which is busy "fostering collective bargaining" as part of the American Mission for Aid to Greece.

Existence of this division is generally unknown to American taxpayers who were told only that "American aid" was necessary to stop Communism.

Said NEC President Hart in his letter:

"I wish . . . to enter a vigorous protest against spending public moneys for the purposes contemplated by this division. Collective bargaining may or may not be good for the people of Greece, but it is no more within the constitutional power of the government of the United States to establish it in Greece than it would be to establish Christian Churches, Jewish Synagogues, Rotary Clubs or associations of employers."

Also protested to was the division's head, Clinton Golden, of the United Steelworkers Union, CIO. "That Mr. Golden is a left-winger in the ranks of labor is simply indicated by the fact that the leftist newspaper, PM, of New York has praised him as 'able and progressive,'" wrote NEC, which also demanded recall and dissolution of the division and an accounting of funds expended to date.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write Sec'y. Marshall, your congressman and senators if you believe this to be a wasteful misuse of your tax-money.

Do You Need a Speaker?

NEC has established a Speakers' Bureau, staffed by able, experienced men and women who thoroughly understand the economic and social issues now confronting America. They are available to service clubs, veterans' posts, women's organizations, church societies, high school and college groups, and similar gatherings. Please address your requests, at least one month before the date of your meeting, to: NEC Speakers Bureau, 7501 Empire State Bldg., New York 1, N. Y.

COURTS GET ISSUE OF RED SCHOOL USE

New York's Board of Education, which has stood pat on its decision to allow Communist use of school properties for meetings, despite many protests (see Action Report No. 2), was on Jan. 5 taken into court by Dr. James E. Maloney of Brooklyn in a taxpayer's suit.

On that day Dr. Maloney obtained a state Supreme Court show cause order against the Board, directing it to explain why it should not revoke its permit to the Communist Party of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, for a meeting in a Brooklyn school on Jan. 15.

Scheduled to speak were famed Communists Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Simon Gerson, the latter designated by the Communist Party to succeed its late Peter V. Cacchione in New York's city council.

As this issue of Action Report goes to press, Supreme Court Justice L. Barron Hill had heard argument and postponed decision until the Communist Party, which intervened in the action, furnished a promised affidavit admitting or denying that it is a branch of the Communist Party in Russia and subject to it.

In objecting to the Board's policy, NEC pointed out clearly that the right of free speech was not involved, since Communists could hire buildings not owned by taxpayers. To this indisputable fact the Board answered only with frigid silence.

Quotation of the Month

"We hate Christianity and Christians; even the best of them must be regarded as our worst enemies. They preach love of one's neighbor and mercy, which is contrary to our principles. Christianity is an obstacle to the development of the revolution. Down with the love of one's neighbor. What we need is hatred. We must know how to hate; only thus, shall we conquer the universe."

—LUNACHARSKY, WHEN MOSCOW COMMISSAR OF EDUCATION.

FIELDING SEES LIGHT ON FRANCO SPAIN

Because of vital importance to our national safety, NEC has long urged the establishment and maintenance of sound, healthy relations with Franco Spain. It is folly for us to spend money fighting Communism at the Eastern end of the Mediterranean if we are to continue collaborating with the Communists, Franco's enemies, at the Western end. Franco has had more experience fighting Communists than any other man on earth. We shall probably soon need him, and he would be an ally to be trusted.

NEC and especially its President have taken many hard words from American Communists, left-wingers and just ordinary "liberals," because of their insistent stand.

Now other writers are seeing the light. The latest recruit is Major George Fielding Eliot who, in a column in the *New York Post* of January 6, 1943, veers decidedly toward Franco. Welcome, Major Eliot, to the side of common sense and justice.

Some of those now climbing aboard the band-wagon with respect to Spain, say: "Two or three years ago we did not have the knowledge about Soviet Russia that we have now." Fiddlesticks! We had all the essential information then that we have now. Just because Franklin Roosevelt (God knows why) sold out to the Asiatic despotism in the Kremlin, is no excuse for pretending that we have not known all along. The very notion that we have not is a reflection on our own brain capacity.

Congratulations, Major Eliot. Sit right down. The seats will fill up fast now.

If you wish extra copies of this Report we shall be glad to send them on request. Two copies free, 10 for 25c, 50 for \$1.